

# Country Data Profile: Orphans

*Countries Targeted by the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief*



## BOTSWANA

Botswana's total population stands at 1.6 million, 622,000 of whom are children under the age of 15 years (BUCEN, 2003). The infant mortality rate stood at 80 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001 and under-five mortality at 110 deaths per 1,000 live births (UNICEF 2003). According to UNAIDS, 28,000 children aged 0 to 14 were living with HIV/AIDS in 2001, and 38.8 percent of adults in Botswana

were infected with HIV/AIDS, the highest adult HIV/AIDS prevalence in the world (UNAIDS, 2002). As such, Botswana is one of the 14 African and Caribbean countries selected for assistance by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

**National Orphan Population.** As seen in table 1, various estimates and projections of the percentage of children who are orphans (losing one or both parents due to all causes, including HIV/AIDS) are high – 8.3 percent (1995), 15.1 percent (2001), and 21.6 percent (2010, projected) by *Children on the Brink 2002*, and 12.5 percent (2000) by the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). The number of orphans in Botswana is likely to increase throughout the decade and reach an estimated 136,000 by 2010 (*Children on the Brink 2002*). The 2000 MICS reports that the percent of children who have lost both parents is greater in rural (1.5 percent of children) than urban areas (0.9 percent).

**Orphans Due to AIDS.** The estimated percentage of children orphaned by AIDS, as opposed to other causes, increased from 33.7 percent of all orphans in 1995 to 70.5 percent in 2001. If current trends continue, it is projected that by 2010 more than 88 percent of Botswana's orphans will have been orphaned by AIDS.

**Table 1: Orphan Estimates as a Percent of All Children Under Age 15**

Factors	Source Name/Year								
	<i>Children on the Brink 2002</i> (estimates for 1995)		MICS 2000	<i>Children on the Brink 2002</i> (estimates for 2001)		UNAIDS 2002 (estimates for 2001)		<i>Children on the Brink 2002</i> (projections for 2010)	
	%	# (000's)	%	%	# (000's)	%	# (000's)	%	# (000's)
HIV/AIDS Prevalence (Adults and Children)							330		
Adult HIV Prevalence						38.8	300		
Total Orphans	8.3	52	12.5	15.1	98			21.6	136
Maternal Orphans	2.2	14	1.8	1.1	7			1.7	11
Paternal Orphans	5.1	32	9.3	4.5	29				0
Double Orphans	0.8	5	1.5	9.5	62			19.8	125
Orphans due to HIV/AIDS as a Percentage of Total Orphans	33.7	18		70.5	69			88.4	120

**Methodologies for Estimating Orphans.** Differences among the orphan estimates and projections of various organizations occur due to differences in methodologies, definitions (of "orphan," for example), and demographic and epidemiological assumptions. On the one hand, *Children on the Brink* and UNAIDS estimate the number of



U.S. Agency for International Development,  
Bureau for Africa, Office of Sustainable Development.

October 2003

orphans using mathematical models, estimations, and projections based on certain assumptions about the impact of HIV/AIDS on adult mortality, fertility, and child survival. These assumptions are likely to lead to overestimations of female HIV prevalence and mortality. Surveys such as the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) (not available for Botswana) and MICS, on the other hand, are based on data gathered through household surveys of representative samples of the national population. These surveys may underestimate the number of orphans because they fail to count orphans in institutions or on the street. In addition, surveys may underestimate the number of orphans if parental survival status is unknown.

### **Table 1 Data Sources**

*Children on the Brink 2002: A Joint Report on Orphan Estimates and Program Strategies*. New York: UNICEF, November 2002: National estimates and projections for the number of orphans by country, type (whether the orphan has lost mother, father, or both parents), and cause (AIDS and non-AIDS) are provided for five-year periods between 1990 and 2010. By 2010, the model used to project future orphans estimates that the majority of orphans will have lost both parents, with the number of paternal orphans approaching zero. This report is a collaborative effort of USAID, UNAIDS, and UNICEF to produce estimates and projections specifically related to the orphan population, such as child mortality rates with and without AIDS and the number of children orphaned by AIDS and other causes.

*Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)* New York: UNICEF, 2000. Household survey interviews provided information on children under 15 with a deceased parent or parents.

*Report on the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic*. July 2002. Geneva: UNAIDS, July 2002: The models for the estimates take into consideration HIV/AIDS prevalence in special populations, AIDS deaths, and HIV/AIDS knowledge and behavior.

### **Other Data Sources**

*State of the World's Children 2003*. New York: UNICEF. This source provide infant mortality and under-five mortality statistics.

*United States Census Bureau (BUCEN), International Programs Center*. Washington, D.C.: BUCEN International Programs Center, International Database (<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/world.html>), accessed October 2003: The source provides the total number of children under 15.

### **Definitions by Data Source**

#### ***Children on the Brink 2002***

(The following definitions refer to the data in the *Children on the Brink 2002* final report. Figures in table 1 differ from those found in the final report as double orphans were subtracted from the maternal and paternal estimates to allow for comparability with DHS and MICS data.)

**Maternal Orphans:** Estimated percent of children under age 15 whose mothers, and perhaps fathers, have died (includes double orphans).

**Paternal Orphans:** Estimated percent of children under age 15 whose fathers, and perhaps mothers, have died (includes double orphans).

**Double Orphans:** Estimated percent of children under age 15 whose mother, father, or both parents have died.

**Total Orphans:** Estimated number of children under age 15 whose mother, father, or both parents have died regardless of parental cause of death. The total number of orphans is equal to the sum of the maternal and paternal, minus double orphans, because they are counted in both the maternal and paternal category.

**Total Orphans Due to AIDS:** Estimated number of children under age 15 whose mother, father, or both parents have died due to AIDS.

**Orphans Due to AIDS as a Percentage of Total Orphans:** Estimated percent of children under age 15 who have lost at least one parent due to AIDS as a percent of all children who have been orphaned, regardless of parental cause of death.

#### **UNAIDS**

**Number of People Living with HIV/AIDS:** Estimated number of adults and children living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2001. Children are defined as those aged 0-14.

**Number of Children Living with HIV/AIDS:** Estimated number of children aged 0-14 living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2001.

**Adults HIV Prevalence:** Estimated number of adults living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2001. Adults are females and males aged 15-49, or those in their sexually active years.

**Adults HIV Prevalence Rate:** To calculate the adult HIV prevalence rate, the estimated number of adults living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2001 was divided by the 2001 adult population (aged 15-49).

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*This Country Data Profile was prepared for the USAID Bureau for Africa, Office of Sustainable Development, by the Population, Health and Nutrition Information (PHNI) Project.*

*October 2003*